

MEXICO AIDS TOLLS FIGHT

Wilson's Hand Upheld and Anti-Repeal Forces Driven to Cover.

OSCAR STRAUS URGES PASSAGE OF THE BILL

U. S. Should Fulfill Word Not Only to Letter but in Accord with Liberal Spirit.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, April 15.—Advocates of the tolls repeal bill adopted aggressive tactics at the hearing before the Senate Committee on Intercommerce Canals today and drove to cover the anti-repeal forces championed by Senator O'Gorman. Members who stand with the President in the controversy took the upper hand, giving basis for the prediction that an effort will be made to cut short the time allowed for the debate of the measure and force a vote within a few weeks.

It was admitted by Senators both for and against the repeal bill to-day that the Mexican situation had put a new aspect on the tolls controversy and the prospect of international difficulties had strengthened the hand of the President.

Senator Simmons to-day led a sort of administration members of the committee to attack Senator O'Gorman for attempting to construe testimony given by the Commissioner of Navigation as favoring the exemption of tolls.

"I do not think that construction can be put upon the testimony," protested Senator Chilton.

"If you will search the record," said Senator Ransdell, pounding the table before Mr. O'Gorman, "you won't find that testimony there."

Oscar S. Straus, formerly Secretary of Commerce and Labor, urged the passage of the repeal bill before the Senate committee to-day. Where there was so wide a difference of opinion even in the United States, he said, there could be no question that there was doubt of the right of this government to exempt American vessels, and the policy of taking advantage of such a situation would not be good policy.

"Let us emphasize that our word is as good as our bond," Mr. Straus said, "and that our bond is not open to technical construction or even to quibble, and that we will fulfill it not only to the letter, but in accord with a broad and liberal spirit."

Mr. Straus contended that an exemption would not profit consumers, but maritime vessels alone. Ex-President Roosevelt, he said, believed the exemption of coastwise shipping did not violate treaty obligations, but thought the question should be submitted to arbitration.

No other witnesses were ready, and the hearing was adjourned until tomorrow, when Seth Low, of New York, will be heard.

ULTIMATUM FOR N. H. WITNESSES

reat of Criminal Suits Unless They Tell About Billard Operations To-day.

Washington, April 15.—Unless there is an overnight change in the attitude of witnesses in the New Haven Railroad investigation, who refused to tell the Interstate Commerce Commission about the operations of the Billard company, to

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which millions of dollars' worth of New Haven securities are alleged to have been illegally diverted, proceedings under the criminal statutes will be instituted here tomorrow by the government to compel them to testify. This was announced to-night by Joseph W. Folk, chief counsel of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Folk to-night wired Homer S. Cummings, of Stamford, counsel for the recalcitrant witnesses, that arrangements had been made with the District Attorney's office here to begin proceedings before the grand jury to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock. Mr. Cummings had asked that the matter be postponed, but he was advised that if his clients desired to change their attitude and testify that he inform the commission before 10 o'clock to-morrow.

If the proceedings are begun to-morrow it is said that the Billard company, the several recalcitrant witnesses supposed to be connected with the Billard company, the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company and the latter's subsidiary, the New England Navigation Company, will be made the defendants.

New Haven Directors Will Act.

A meeting of the directors of the New Haven Railroad will be held to-day to complete plans for the stockholders' meeting at New Haven on Tuesday. The agreement between the government and the railroad for the dismemberment of the company will come up for ratification at the stockholders' meeting, and the directors are anxious to see the compact upheld.

ADMITS HE LIED TO AID GUNMEN

Continued from first page.

denied yesterday that they knew anything about Dresner. The District Attorney is satisfied that Dresner was to have been used later as a witness for Becker.

It is understood the District Attorney intends to make an example of Dresner, and although he has some evidence already in hand refuting, in a measure, the affidavits made by other witnesses at the hearing before Justice Goff, he will not try to pursue the investigation further. He will rest content, it was said, in allowing the inference to be drawn from the Dresner incident, as to the calibre of other witnesses who have been brought forward.

Dresner testified before Justice Goff that he was standing in 43d street, waiting for a friend to come out of the Elks Club, when Rosenthal was shot, and that he saw Harry Vallon and "Bridge" Webber in the gray car and "Sam" Schepps standing on the running board as it left the scene of the murder. He also testified that he saw "Jack" Rose, Vallon and Webber at the Garden restaurant the night previously and heard Rose tell Vallon to "put it over" Rosenthal, was was at the restaurant with his wife. In the affidavit made to the District Attorney he swears that he was at neither place and never knew any of the men he mentioned.

It was some satisfaction to Justice Goff as well as to District Attorney Whitman yesterday in that Dresner's admission of perjury fully justified the action of the court in denying the motion for a new trial for the four gunmen.

Dresner's story on the witness stand was under investigation when he ap-

peared at the District Attorney's office yesterday. "Abel" Gersten, the friend whom Dresner swore he went to the Elks Club to meet on the night of the Rosenthal murder, was there under subpoena. Dresner at first told Assistant District Attorney Groehl that he had come down to the office to see if he was wanted, and insisted that the story he told before Justice Goff was true. Later he was taken before District Attorney Whitman.

"What do you want me for?" Dresner asked the District Attorney.

"I don't want you now," replied Mr. Whitman, "because I am going to send you to state prison."

"How did you find out that I lied?" was Dresner's ready admission. "I wasn't in 43d street, but I was at the Garden Restaurant."

"Didn't you know that 'Dago Frank' said that he was at the Garden Restaurant?" asked Mr. Whitman.

Dresner had testified that he did not see any of the gunmen there that night, only Rose, Vallon and Webber.

"'Dago Frank' did say that, did he?" replied Dresner. "Well, I might as well tell you that all of my testimony was false, but I hope you will be easy on me."

Mr. Whitman made Dresner no promise of mercy, but obtained his affidavit, and he was arrested by Policeman McQuaid, the doorman of the District Attorney's office, and later taken down to court. Gersten and Policeman James A. Kelly, of the Elizabeth street station, to whom Dresner swore he had told his story during the Becker trial, both confronted the false witness at Mr. Whitman's office. They made affidavits refuting Dresner's original affidavit, in as far as he swore that they were concerned.

It is not likely that the District Attorney will further investigate the circumstances of "Dago" Frank's confession at Sing Sing half an hour before he was executed Monday morning. Warden Clancy was with Mr. Whitman, at the latter's home, until 2 o'clock yesterday morning. They had a four-hour talk. It is believed that the District Attorney is satisfied that no attempt will be made to use the "confession" at the Becker trial.

A letter is said to be in the possession of the District Attorney, signed by a keeper at Sing Sing, to the effect that "Dago" Frank had made statements directly contrary to the one alleged in his "confession," namely that, so far as he knew Becker had nothing to do with the Rosenthal murder. It is also known that "Lefty" Louie, not long before he went to his death, sent word to the District Attorney's office that he would confess, naming Becker, if he could be assured of a commutation of sentence. Mr. Whitman is said to have refused his offer because "Louie" was a participant in the shooting.

Charles Becker stood before the bar in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court yesterday, where he stood on October 29, 1912, and heard the sentence of death pronounced upon him by Justice Goff. On the motion of District Attorney Whitman, Justice Seabury fixed the date for the second trial for May 6.

Joseph A. Shay announced to the court that there would be a formal change of counsel in the case, and pleaded for more time for new counsel to familiarize himself with his task. Martin T. Manton, who will succeed Shay as counsel, was in court. W. Bourke Cockran, Mr. Manton's partner, will appear for Becker, it was said. Justice Seabury said he thought three weeks sufficient.

"Dago Frank" Cirofici was buried yesterday in St. Raymond's cemetery. In

Westchester. The funeral took place from the home of his parents, at 369 East 184th st. Services were conducted by the Rev. Father Cashin, chaplain of Sing Sing Prison. Only members of the immediate family and intimate friends were admitted, though a crowd gathered in front of the house and stood in a heavy rain until the body was borne to the hearse.

Up to the time Mrs. Cirofici, mother of the dead man, appeared, assisted by her son, in the crowd, laughed and seemed to take the whole affair as a joke. Her evident grief sobered them.

Three open barouches were filled with flower offerings. A few had tags attached. These showed that they were sent by "the Fordham boys" and "the boys of Canal street." One piece was made up of white flowers in the form of a clock dial, with the hands pointing to 5:40, the hour Cirofici was put to death.

ROOSEVELT MAY REVISIT SANTIAGO

Returning Next June, Colonel Is Expected to View the Battlefields.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, April 15.—When Colonel Roosevelt returns to the United States it will probably be through Cuba and a gulf port. He is to go to Spain next month from South America, to attend the wedding of his son Kermit to the daughter of Colonel Willard, the American Ambassador to that country.

After that the colonel may take a French or German liner from Barcelona to Havana, or, if he can induce the company to divert the ship, direct to Santiago, where he may visit the battlefields on which he led the Rough Riders sixteen years ago.

From Cuba, Colonel Roosevelt will come home, possibly through New Orleans and up through the Mississippi Valley. He is expected to reach the United States in June.

SENATE COMMITTEE HAS OWN TRUST PLANS

Purposes to Ignore House Bill and Create Governing Commission.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, April 15.—The determination of members of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee to steer a course independent of the House Committee on Trust Legislation was apparent to-day after publication of the consolidated measure as the fruit of the labors of the House committee.

Senator Newlands and Senator Robinson conferred with the President on the subject to-day, but after their return to the Capitol there was no indication that the Senate committee would take the House bill as a basis for its own or that it would be in any great haste to carry out the administration's trust programme.

The Senate committee will work out its own bill. The task will not be completed for two or three weeks. There is still a wide divergence of opinion among the members.

Little interest was manifested on the Senate side of the Capitol to-day in the House anti-trust bill. Some Senators look upon the House bill as far too weak and as little or no improvement over existing laws. There is still a belief, despite the expressed wish of the President, that a measure providing for the creation of a trade commission will be passed and that other matters of trust regulation should be left to a later session of Congress.

GLYNN TO CONSIDER BILLS IN PRIVACY

Retires to Executive Man- sion Until End of Thirty- Day Period.

APPELLATE TERM CRE- ATED FOR THIS CITY

Judge of Court of Record May Determine Mental Condition of Feeble-Minded.

[By Telegram to The Tribune.]
Albany, April 15.—Governor Glynn in order to secure more privacy in the consideration of the bills before him has retired to the Executive Mansion. He will spend the greater part of his time there until the end of the thirty-day period on April 27, and unless a case of great emergency arises he will not even give any audiences on legislative measures.

The Governor signed to-day the bill authorizing the judge of a court of record to determine the mental condition of alleged feeble-minded persons on the application of parents, guardians, relatives, a probation or parole officer or a superintendent or principal of a school. If their condition warrants they can be committed to an institution. The bill was urged by the State Charities Aid Association and similar organizations, who informed the Governor that while the state is spending annually \$3,000,000 for the insane it is backward in its care of the feeble-minded. It is declared that feeble-mindedness is as serious a problem as insanity.

"A large number of feeble-minded persons are at large," said the Governor, "and the ranks of the criminals are largely recruited from them. The children in foundling hospitals in a great many instances come from the girls and women in this class, and in many cases are adopted to grow up in normal homes. The state has hitherto permitted the danger from the feeble-minded to grow unchecked."

The Governor also signed the bill providing for a commission to investigate the care, custody, treatment and training of the mentally deficient.

A court known as the Appellate Term is created in New York City under the McGrath bill, which was approved. It provides that appeals from decisions of the municipal or city courts of New York can be heard by either the Appellate Division or by not less than three Supreme Court justices in each of the First and Second Judicial departments, who shall be known as the Appellate Term. The justices of this term or a justice of the Appellate Division may allow a further appeal to the Appellate Division. The new law will greatly relieve the Appellate Division.

The Governor vetoed the bill which would allow courts in discretion to impose any penalty from \$1 up to the pres-

ent fixed sums for violation of the tenement house regulations in New York City.

"This proposed amendment," he said, "would make the provision as to penalties a nullity and tend to make the tenement house law unenforceable."

PASSENGER RATES LOWER

Changed Under New Provision of Commerce Body.

Washington, April 15.—Readjustment of passenger rates on all interstate railroads in the United States, in conformity with the long-and-short haul provision of the law, under orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission, will become effective on May 1. The new tariffs filed by the

roads with the commission indicate a material reduction in fares, particularly from important terminals and rate basing points to intermediate points.

It is estimated by officials of the commission, after an analysis of the tariffs, that "95 per cent of the changes in fares will be reductions" and 5 per cent increases.

Niagara Lists Making Port.

When the steamer Niagara, of the French Line, arrived here last night from Havre her officers reiterated denials of reports that she had been in trouble during her voyage.

Coming up the bay the Niagara was listed to port. That, the captain explained, was caused by the small cargo, the scarcity of coal in the starboard bunkers and the strong easterly wind.



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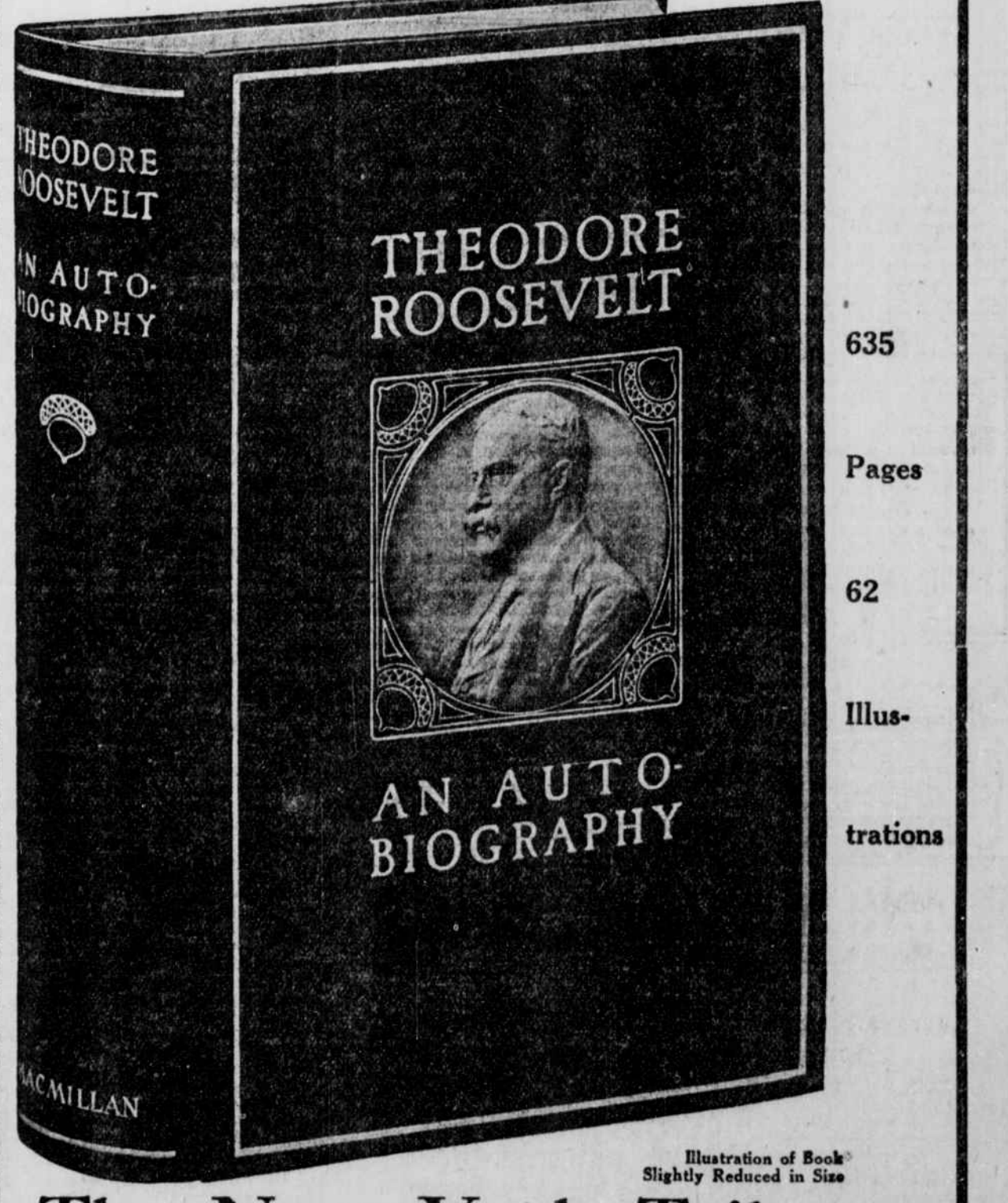
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